

ANNUAL REPORT

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ARIZONA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OPEN-FILE REPORT

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This report is preliminary and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with Arizona Geological Survey standards

## Summary

The Arizona Bureau of Mines is the earth science and mineral resource experimental and informational agency of the State of Arizona. As such, its major strength lies with its close affiliation with the academic and research programs of The University of Arizona. This affiliation insulates it from the regulatory, promotional and policy making responsibilities of most other state agencies, thus affording the Bureau the opportunity to be objective in its scientific and practical interpretation of natural phenomena.

The major limitations of the Bureau is its small size and limited budget as compared to those of comparable agencies in other states. Further, the fragmentation of responsibilities and activities within the University and within the State in the areas normally included in a geological survey have weakened the position of the Bureau as the State's geological survey.

In keeping with modern needs of society the Arizona Bureau of Mines intends to relate its geological survey activities to the many facets of the geological implications on land use planning. We intend to cooperate with State and local government agencies in this regard. Several internal organizational and functional changes would be desirable for the Bureau. We intend to propose an up-to-date charter for the Bureau to better reflect the functions which it has been serving for many years.

## Major Strengths

The Arizona Bureau of Mines is the earth science and mineral resource experimental and informational agency of the State. Its major strength lies in its affiliation with The University of Arizona and the College of Mines. This affiliation affords the Bureau the freedom from the regulatory, promotional and policy making responsibilities of most state agencies and the opportunity to be objective in its scientific and practical interpretation of natural phenomena. Further, the Bureau, being a public service agency, requires accessibility by the public. Its location on the University campus, in the heart of the major mineral-producing area of the State, is a decided asset to its mining and metallurgy services.

The staff of the Arizona Bureau of Mines is extremely well suited for the service role of the organization. Their patience and diligence in this respect has been outstanding. The expertise of the staff covers a variety of specialties and a broad background of knowledge concerning the State and its resources. These strengths complement the informational responsibilities of the Bureau and enable it to fulfill the major duty of a state geological survey -- to provide answers to local problems in applied geology based on the intimate knowledge of the staff. 1)

1) Linn Hoover, Executive Director, American Geological Institute.

## Major Limitations

The major limitation of the Arizona Bureau of Mines is its small size compared to similar agencies in other states. The Bureau serves as the geological survey of the State and as such its operations and services should be comparable to those of other states. The State of Arizona has one of the largest geographical areas (approximately 115,000 square miles) of all of the states and one of the largest mineral industries. In spite of this, in 1972 the Arizona Bureau of Mines had the 11th smallest budget of all of the survey organizations in the United States and, consequently, had the 9th smallest professional staff. The output of the Bureau in terms of information derived and disseminated about the natural environment of the State suffers as a consequence.

Part of the problem in Arizona has been the fragmentation of survey-type activities among several other groups on the campus and agencies in the State with little or no formal liaison or coordination of activities. The budgeting treatment of the Arizona Bureau of Mines as a research unit of the University is a detriment to its operations in times of budget restrictions to education. The Arizona Bureau of Mines is a statutory unit of State government and, therefore, is a research and information arm of State government. While funding is sought and obtained from non-state sources, it is entirely appropriate for the State to be the major contributor to the Bureau's budget.

Operationally, the Bureau has several problems. Its staff is spread from the third floor of the northwest corner of the Geology Building to the basement of the southeast corner of the Mines and Metallurgy Building. Besides making communications difficult for the staff, this spread in location makes it a hardship for members of the public who utilize the Bureau's services. Under its enabling act, the Bureau is required to distribute its information free to residents of the State of Arizona. While out-of-state recipients are charged an amount equivalent to the cost of printing, the funds so received are returned to the General Fund of the University. Budget restrictions have subsequently prevented the publication of Bureau work inasmuch as the funds for publications must be solely derived through budget requests.

## Future Plans

The modern needs of society have drastically changed many of the activities of the state geological survey organizations in recent years. Landslides, floods and subsidence cracking in residential areas have highlighted this need. The Arizona Bureau of Mines must strive to respond to these problems too. We plans to become intimately involved in collecting and disseminating information relating to land use planning. Geology must be the basis for such planning and, as the principal geological organization in State government, it is our responsibility to assist the other state agencies in this regard. We have, accordingly, alerted members of the natural resources committees of the State legislature and the several agency directors having resource responsibilities of our interest in cooperating with them.

Operationally, we plan to initiate a third publication series -- a circular series. This series will enable the staff of the Bureau to publish the results of work in progress as such work reaches an appropriate point rather than waiting for an entire study to be completed and published as a Bulletin. Further, the Circular will be published by photo reproduction of a typewriter manuscript rather than by typeset in order to conserve our printing funds. As the mineral experiment portion of the Bureau grows in activity we intend to formalize the establishment of administrative sections within the Bureau. We intend to strive for three sections -- a geological survey section, a mineral research section, and an informational section. At the time that this is accomplished we will recommend that the charter of the Bureau be changed to reflect up-to-date needs of the State and that the name of the Bureau be changed to reflect the activities it has been performing for many years.